

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

Cd. Juárez, Chih.
May 15, 2000

Minute No. 303

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE JOINTLY - FINANCED
WORKS FOR SOLUTION OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE
SALINITY PROBLEM**

The Commission met in the offices of the Mexican Section at 3:00 p.m. on May 15, 2000 to review the operation and maintenance of the jointly-financed works for the solution of the Lower Rio Grande salinity problem established in Commission Minutes No. 223 entitled, "Measures for Solution of the Lower Rio Grande Salinity Problem" and No. 224 entitled, "Recommendations Concerning the Lower Rio Grande Salinity Problem", dated November 30, 1965 and January 16, 1967, respectively. The Commissioners noted that Resolution No. 7 of Minute No. 223 provides that the operation and maintenance of the jointly-financed works be conducted under the supervision of the Commission and that under Resolution No. 6 of Minute 223 that the appropriate agencies of Mexico provide the Mexican Section the annual statement of actual operation and maintenance costs which serves as the basis for determining the United States share of such annual costs. Further, the Commissioners noted the provision in Resolution No. 5 of Minute No. 282 entitled, "Rehabilitation of the Saline Waters Disposal System for Solution of the Salinity Problem in the Waters of the Lower Rio Grande," dated March 26, 1990, for recommendation of a Commission-supervised operations and maintenance program that would take into account more frequent reimbursement by the United States. Finally, the Commissioners made note that there exist formal arrangements of the Commission adopted after 1990 for the administration by the Mexican Section of United States funds for conclusion and execution of contracts in Mexico.

The Commissioners observed that the three components of the jointly-financed works, a pumping plant, a 24-mile (38.9-kilometer) long bypass channel, and a diversion structure, have been operated for more than 30 years at a cost equally shared by the United States and Mexico. The Commissioners noted their instruction to the Principal Engineers to review the operation and maintenance of these works in light of current conditions and to recommend improvements.

The Commissioners reviewed and considered as satisfactory, the "Joint Report of the Principal Engineers Regarding the Operation and Maintenance of Pumping Plant, the Diversion Structure, and the Bypass Channel Stipulated in Points 5 and 6 of the Resolution in Minute No. 223," signed on March 20, 2000 by United States Section Principal Engineer Carlos Marin and Mexican Section Principal Engineer Gilberto Elizalde Hernández. They observed that the Principal Engineers recommend that the maintenance be reinforced through minimum work, in phases, to reestablish the design capacity and that the operation and maintenance be performed through an annual work plan developed by the Commission that will ensure that the bypass channel will operate at its capacity of 105.9 cfs (3 cms) at all times and will avoid high salinity concentrations in the waters of the Rio Grande upstream of Anzalduas Dam. The Commissioners

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also observed that the Principal Engineers recommend that the annual work plan be carried out by Mexico utilizing its National Water Commission (CNA), with Mexican Section personnel, or through contracts funded in equal parts by the United States and Mexico. Finally, the Commissioners observed that the Principal Engineers recommend that the Commission also be able to authorize work and make provision for funding of components and operations of the works in response to emergency situations not envisioned in the annual work plan.

Based on this review the Commissioners make the following recommendations for the approval of the two Governments:


1. That the "Joint Report of the Principal Engineers Regarding the Operation and Maintenance of Pumping Plant, the Diversion Structure, and the Bypass Channel Stipulated in Points 5 and 6 of the Resolution in Minute No. 223," signed on March 20, 2000 by United States Section Principal Engineer Carlos Marin and Mexican Section Principal Engineer Gilberto Elizalde Hernández, respectively, be approved and form a part of this Minute.
2. That the Mexican Section coordinate the execution of the operation and maintenance of the works in Mexico under the terms of an annual work plan developed by the Commission under which the bypass channel will operate at its capacity of 105.9 cfs (3 cms) at all times and will seek to avoid high salinity concentrations in the waters of the Rio Grande upstream of Anzalduas Dam.
3. That the Mexican Section coordinate the execution of the annual work by Mexico's National Water Commission (CNA), Mexican Section personnel, or through contracts funded equally by the United States and Mexico.
4. That the United States Section transfer to the Mexican Section funds for the share of the annual work plan costs which correspond to the United States for administration by the Mexican Section under Commission arrangements adopted after 1990 and to cover costs of the annual plan corresponding to the United States in the conclusion and execution of contracts in Mexico.
5. That the Commission may authorize and make provision for funding of components and operations of the works in response to emergency situations not envisioned in the annual work plan, provided that the funding is equally shared by the two countries up to the amount of funds available to each Section in each fiscal year.

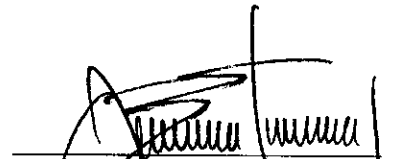
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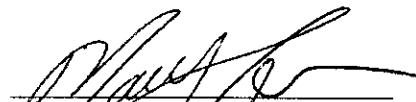
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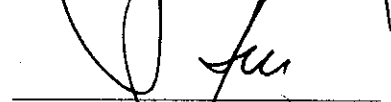
6. That all activities undertaken pursuant to the provisions of this Minute are subject to the availability of funds, resources, and corresponding personnel as well as to applicable laws and standards in each country.
7. That this Minute enters into force upon notification of approval by the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Mexican States through the respective Sections of the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned.


 John M. Bernal
 United States Commissioner


 J. Arturo Herrera Solís
 Mexican Commissioner


 Manuel R. Ybarra
 United States Section Secretary


 José de Jesús Luévano Grano
 Mexican Section Secretary